

ENERGY STAR® Product Development Update Winter 2005

Provided below are updates on existing and potential ENERGY STAR qualified product categories currently being researched by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE). For more information on the status of EPA and DOE's research, visit the ENERGY STAR Specifications in Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Contacts are provided at the end of each update for those parties interested in finding out more about a particular product.

Clothes Washers

Based on feedback from the stakeholder meeting last August and comments received from stakeholders in the fall, DOE completed an updated analysis that includes a proposed criteria change for residential clothes washers and residential style commercial clothes washers. This analysis and criteria change announcement will be released in the next few weeks and the new criteria will go into effect on January 1, 2007, at the same time that the federal standard is changing.

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Computers

EPA released a Preliminary Draft 1 Version 4.0 computer specification on February 18, 2005 for stakeholder review and comment. EPA is proposing tighter sleep mode requirements and adding new requirements for active and standby modes. According to this draft, to qualify under active mode, computers would need to meet internal and external power supply efficiency levels and idle mode requirements. The **deadline to provide comments on this Preliminary Draft specification is March 31, 2005**. Manufacturers and other interested parties will be able to discuss the proposed requirements during an ENERGY STAR Computer **Industry Meeting being held on March 15, 2005 in Washington, DC**. For more information and to view the meeting agenda visit the Computer Web page.

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Dishwashers: Commercial

EPA is conducting research on the energy and water use of commercial dishwashers including under-counter, door-type, C-line or rack conveyer type, and flight type models. Part of this research will include speaking with manufacturers and collecting performance data, as made available. Based on this research, EPA will decide whether or not to move forward with a draft specification, which would present the minimum performance, testing, and labeling requirements that models would need to meet to earn the ENERGY STAR.

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Dishwashers: Residential

DOE is evaluating the current state of the dishwasher market based on current product availability and market share and looks to have this analysis completed by the spring. **Any criteria change would most likely take effect on January 1, 2007.**

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Dehumidifiers

EPA is currently conducting analysis into five possible options for the Draft 1 (Version 2.0) dehumidifier specification. Following this analysis, EPA hopes to develop and distribute a Draft 1 specification to industry for comment and review prior to the 2005 International Housewares Association Show, to be held in Chicago, IL March 20-22. ENERGY STAR representatives will be at the show to discuss the draft specification with interested manufacturers.

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External Power Supplies

EPA's new ENERGY STAR specification for single voltage external ac-dc and ac-ac external power supplies went into effect on January 1, 2005 and was introduced at the 2005 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) on January 8, 2005. This announcement was made at a CES media event: "Green Gadgets: Environmental Friendly Initiatives Making a Difference." Interested manufacturers are encouraged to join ENERGY STAR and qualify their energy-efficient models.

In January, EPA initiated its research into battery charging systems typically found in household appliances and power tools, which are temporarily excluded from the external power supply specification. EPA expects to distribute a draft test method this spring and to host a stakeholder meeting shortly thereafter. ENERGY STAR representatives will be available for informal meetings at the upcoming Applied Power Electronics Conference (APEC) in March and the Portable Power Developer's Conference in April (www.darnell.com/ppdc).

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HVAC (CAC/ASHP)

After reviewing comments and feedback received from industry stakeholders in response to the options for revising the ENERGY STAR specification for central air conditioners (CACs) and air-source heat pumps (ASHPs), EPA released a Draft 1 Partner Commitments and Eligibility Criteria for ENERGY STAR qualified ASHPs and CACs on January 28, 2005. These documents outline the proposed criteria that ASHP and CAC systems will need to meet to qualify for ENERGY STAR beginning January 26, 2006 and addresses both equipment efficiency and requirements for proper installation, including third-party verification that the system airflow and refrigerant charge perform to manufacturers' specifications. **The deadline to comment on this Draft 1 specification is Friday, March 25, 2005.** At the end of the comment period, EPA will carefully review and consider all comments submitted and distribute subsequent drafts, as necessary.

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Imaging Equipment

At the last stakeholder meeting, on July 14, 2004 in Washington, DC, attendees agreed to further explore the possibility of testing imaging equipment under a Typical Electricity Consumption (TEC) approach. In response, on September 23, 2004, EPA distributed a clarified version of the original draft TEC test procedure for review and comment. Industry feedback was incorporated into the revised draft TEC test procedure, which was distributed to stakeholders on February 2, 2005 along with accompanying rationale. In the distribution, EPA asked that **interested stakeholders share any preliminary test results and additional comments by March 2, 2005.** Input received by this date will be discussed at the next **Industry Meeting on March 16, 2005 in Washington, DC**, in addition to other topics, including plans for a draft specification and a timeline for completing the specification revision.

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Mini-Split Air Conditioners

EPA is interest in exploring a possible ENERGY STAR specification for mini-split ACs. As these products are much more prevalent in other parts of the world, and are only beginning to gain market share in the US, EPA is working with the Australian Greenhouse Office on some preliminary market research.

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Pre-Rinse Spray Valves

EPA released the Draft 1 Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR pre-rinse spray valves specification on February 7, 2005, for review and comment. This Draft 1 specification addresses both energy and water efficiency, with maximum allowable levels for flow rate and for cleanability. **Comments on the Draft must be**

submitted by March 7, 2005. EPA hopes to finalize the specification by August 2005 and announce the program at NAFEM in September 2005.

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Programmable Thermostats

Over the last year, EPA has been working with industry stakeholders to design a new specification to make ENERGY STAR programmable thermostats unique and easy to use to improve the potential for greater energy savings. EPA is currently in the process of analyzing additional consumer research to identify ways that the new specification can be tied to a consumer education campaign. Once this process is complete, EPA will distribute the Final Draft of the ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Programmable Thermostat specification for stakeholder review. It is EPA's hope to finalize the specification by April 2005.

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Residential Light Fixtures

EPA finalized the Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR specification for Residential Light Fixtures (RLF). This new specification, which has an effective date of October 1, 2005, was sent out to industry stakeholders on January 10, 2005. Accompanying Qualified Product Information forms were sent out to industry stakeholders on February 7, 2005. Some major revisions include: exclusion of magnetic ballasts and outdoor fixtures without an integrated photocell; new lumen maintenance, replaceable ballast, lamp labeling, and lamp shipment requirements; revised color temperature and air-tight recessed can requirements; revised documentation requirements for end of life protection; and new annual quality assurance testing procedures along with a **manufacturer challenge process**.

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Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights

On February 3, 2005, DOE released *Display Unit Labeling Guidelines For Manufacturers And Retailers*, which is expected to significantly increase the visibility and use of ENERGY STAR in product marketing. On February 14, 2005 DOE released *Cost And Energy Savings: National, Regional, and City Estimates, Factoids, and Their Use*, which provides partners with precise energy and cost savings estimates for the first time. On October 8, 2004, DOE released a revised Analysis Results for Performance Based Ratings for the *ENERGY STAR® Windows Program* prepared by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The analysis evaluates the feasibility of establishing a performance-based amendment to the current prescriptive specification. **DOE expects to announce a final decision on whether to incorporate a performance-based amendment later this spring. DOE also hopes to release the revised Program Requirements for partner comment in late February or early March.** DOE is evaluating revisions to the Program Requirements primarily to ensure more useful and complete reporting of unit shipment data.

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Roof Products

EPA distributed a memorandum to stakeholders on February 1, 2005, announcing its intentions to revisit the Version 1.2 ENERGY STAR specification for roof products. EPA is currently conducting research to determine the feasibility of (1) including a requirement for emissivity of roof products within the ENERGY STAR specification and (2) allowing accelerated aging to be used to determine the maintenance of solar reflectance after three years. EPA hopes to have completed preliminary research and release a Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification for review and comment by July 2005.

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Room Air Conditioners

DOE has completed an analysis on room air conditioners with a heat pump or reverse cycle. DOE should **release a criteria expansion letter by spring 2005.**

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Set-top Boxes

EPA distributed a memorandum to stakeholders on February 3, 2005, announcing its intentions to **temporarily suspend** the current ENERGY STAR specification for set-top boxes and develop a new specification to cover only simple, stand-alone digital TV adapters (DTAs). Per the memorandum, as of May 31, 2005, manufacturers must discontinue use of the ENERGY STAR mark on all previously qualified set-top box products and collateral materials and stop referring to themselves as ENERGY STAR partners for set-top boxes. EPA hopes to release a Draft 1 specification for DTAs in early summer 2005.

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Telephony

EPA released the Final Draft Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR telephony specification for review and comment on February 11, 2005. This Draft had identical system-level standby mode requirements to Draft 1, but the proposed effective date of the specification was delayed an additional six months, to coincide with the Tier 2 effective date of the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Single Voltage External Ac-Dc and Ac-Ac Power Supplies. Once this Version 2.0 specification takes effect and throughout its duration, **telephony manufacturers will have to use external power supplies** that meet or exceed the latest ENERGY STAR specification for single voltage external ac-dc and ac-ac power supplies in effect at that time (i.e., as the external power supply specification transitions to new tiers, telephony manufacturers must use power supplies that meet those new efficiency requirements). **Comments on the Draft must be submitted by March 11, 2005.** Following a review of these comments, EPA hopes to issue the Final specification shortly thereafter.

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Vending Machines

EPA is continuing to work with industry stakeholders, including the National Automatic Merchandisers Association (NAMA), to determine how to incorporate refurbished machines into the existing Version 1.0 Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machine specification.

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